



# Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

[info@southernshores-nc.gov](mailto:info@southernshores-nc.gov)

[www.southernshores-nc.gov](http://www.southernshores-nc.gov)

## Town of Southern Shores Canal Dredging Project

In June of 2004 the Southern Shores Civic Association (SSCA) and the Chicahawk Property Owners Association (CPOA) voted to deed the canal bottoms to the Town of Southern Shores for the expressed purpose of dredging the 7.2 miles of canals.

The Town of Southern Shores hired Environmental Professionals Inc. as a consultant to help the Town identify a dredge disposal site and apply for necessary state permits.

On August 2, 2005 the Town Council voted to proceed with the dredging of the canals. In November 2005 a public information meeting was held concerning the project and numerous newsletters and email were sent to citizens and property owners about the proposed project.

On September 26, 2006 the Town conducted a public meeting workshop on the canal dredging project. John Sutherland with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, briefed Council on other similar dredge projects locally and in other parts of the State. George Wood with Environmental Professionals Inc. also discussed the permitting process and gave a report on the soil sampling of the material from the canals.

Since 2004 a number of potential sites (e.g. CPOA common space, SSCA properties, a Hillcrest site, Duck Woods Country Club and numerous remote sites outside of Dare County) and various dredging techniques (e.g. hydraulic and mechanical) have been explored by the Town.

The Town estimates that approximately 137,000 cubic yards of material needs to be removed from the canal system to achieve a normal six foot depth in the canals. Based on information received from our consultants the Town estimates the project would cost about \$2,000,000.

In May 2006 the Town met with our legislative leaders in Raleigh and requested financial assistance to fund this undertaking. The adopted 2006-07 state budget allotted \$800,000 to the Town of Southern Shores to be matched by \$200,000 in Town funds for the dredging project. The Town expects the state to allot an additional \$800,000 in the 2007-08 budget to be matched by an additional \$200,000 in local dollars this year.

The CPOA site has been identified as the best overall site to place the material for short term use or possible long term use. If the Town used a mechanical dredge and hauled the material to a remote site the costs of the project could rise by more than \$800,000 for hauling costs alone, not to mention the degradation to our town and streets.

The canals have not been dredged in over 40 years. Many of these canals are now extremely shallow. If they continue to fill in, the Town will lose one of our most valuable resources. Now is the best time and our best opportunity to dredge. We cannot afford to loose this opportunity.